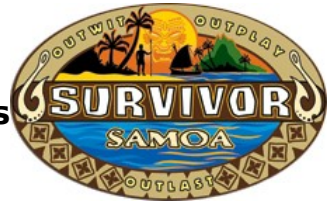


Episode 9 - The Most Dangerous Player (Opening Credits)



Keeping John

The **Foa Foa** tribe returns to camp in the dead of night after blindsiding Ben and keeping John, one of the most powerful players in the game. “Tribal Council tonight was rough,” **Russell S.** recaps. “Ben got voted out and I’m absolutely *miserable*. It was something that was done, you know, hopefully for the good of the tribe, but...I did *not* like the feeling of betraying an ally. We should have never written his name down.” Fearful of giving John even more control in the game, Russell S. expresses deep regret over his and Russell H.’s decision. “I’m gonna be honest: we made a *mistake* tonight on every level,” Russell S. agonizes. “It was a stupid decision! Ben should *be* here right now,” he continues. “I mean, he would have *never* done that to us!” Russell H. counters that they had no choice or it would have been a tie. “That’s gonna cost us the *game*,” Russell S. worries. “You don’t know that,” Russell H. tries to calm him down. “Stop, uh, jumpin’ to *conclusions*.” “Russell [S.]’s freakin’ *out*,” **Russell H.** tells the camera. “He’s convinced that we made a *huge* mistake by keepin’ John and getting rid of Ben, but...I’m’a make *sure* it don’t come back and bite me in the butt. You know, *I’m* the Chief. *I’m* runnin’ the show over here,” he declares. “Tomorrow I’m’a talk to John first thing and make sure he’s *solid*,” Russell H. says. Russell S. still can’t help but feel uneasy: “I hope you know what you’re *doin’*,” he cautions his ally.

Moments later, Brett asks if the tribe is still planning on cooking up the fish that Ben had caught. “Well, we gotta eat ‘em now,” Russell H. answers. Russell S. seems uncomfortable with the idea: “You alright, Russell [S.]?” Brett asks him. “I’m just havin’ a *moment*,” Russell S. replies. “This game’s *brutal*, dude,” he somberly says. “You do not need to feel bad,” Brett tells Russell S. “He would have been voted off even without your vote.” “When we got back to camp after tonight’s Tribal Council, we decided to cook a couple fish that Ben had caught earlier this morning, and Big Russell didn’t want anything to do with it,” **Brett** narrates. Feeling sad and guilty, Russell S. refuses to eat any of Ben’s fish: “I don’t want it, man,” Russell S. declines. “You guys go ahead.” “Cheers, guys,” John says, as he bites into a large piece of fish. “I think [Russell] felt probably really guilty about writing Ben’s name down,” Brett continues in his confessional. “Unfortunately, you know, blindsides have to *happen* and...my strategy this far’s been to basically let people, uh, underestimate me in the game.” The other three men and Liz continue to devour the fish, satisfying their hunger and their need for protein. “This is *delicious*,” Russell H. comments aloud. “You know what I said when I voted for Ben?” John brings up, creating an awkward moment. “I said ‘*Thanks* for all the fish.’” Russell S. looks over and shakes his head disappointedly, as John eats another piece of fish. Brett remains silent: “I’m definitely the type of player who’s let John voice a lot more of his opinions and take the lead on getting certain people voted out,” **Brett** elaborates, “so...hopefully, you know, me stepping back and essentially flying under-the-radar will allow me to sneak into the Final Three and avoid any kind of *backlash* that might come as a result of those decisions.”

The Most Dangerous Player

On the morning of Day 22, Russell H. and John embark on a trek to the water well together. “Big *day* today, man,” John begins a conversation. Russell H. then says that the merge has to be coming soon. “At Tribal last night, *Ben* went home,” John recaps again. “The vote was *unanimous*, and...I think the fact that the Russells, you know, caved in and voted Ben is probably indicative of the power dynamics in the tribe. Even though Russell [H.] was voted chief, I’m definitely in control of **Foa Foa**, and potentially, you know, **Galu** as *well*.” Stopping to talk in the jungle, John then explains the plan of attack if the tribes merge: “Plan A is obviously we flip Betsy or Natalie,” John says, continuing to pretend that he is allied with Russell. “If that doesn’t work, Plan B is we try to flip Monica or Kelly,” he continues. “*Listen*,” Russell H. then begins. “I’m a *believe* you, but I’m gonna ask one thing: you’re not tryin’ to, uh, *swindle* me?” Russell H. poses in a very serious tone. “Absolutely not,” John tells him. “In either *scenario*, *Laura* goes first.” Russell H. nods his head: “Alright, man,” he agrees, as John extends his hand. “I’m ready to *play* this game.” “*Alright*, cool,” John says, shaking Russell’s hand. “Why? You think I’m good enough to pull a fast one on you?” John jokes. “It might be the downfall of my game but I believe that John’s gonna stay loyal to **Foa Foa** and we’re gonna get rid of *Laura*,” **Russell H.** admits to the camera. “The biggest problem for *me* is John’s playin’ the same game *I’m* playin’: the lying, cheating, stealing game. He’s good *socially*. *Physically* he’s strong. You know, he’s stronger than anybody here, so... he’s *still* the most dangerous player.” With John listening intently, Russell H. attempts to further secure his place in the game as he blackmails John, shooting him a warning: “If I get [censored] on this deal, uh, I ain’t gonna *vote* for you on the *jury*,” Russell threatens. John stands his ground: “If you get [censored], it won’t just be *me* who wrote your name down...” “Russell [H.]’s an idiot, and...he doesn’t know, you know, how *uncomfortable* he should be right now,” John then brags. “I mean, he’s a *joke*, and...merge or *no* merge, I have the numbers to take that guy *out*.”

Mail Call

At the **Galu** camp, Natalie reads treemail, which leaves the tribe guessing if they’re merging or simply preparing for another Reward Challenge: “*It’s time to follow your leader. Face-to-face with your rivals once more. With your bodies pumped and your minds sharp, your taste buds and stomachs can score*,” she reads aloud. The **Galu** members immediately become excited over the possibility of a feast. “It could be a *merge*,” Kelly suggests. “Merge feast!” Monica celebrates. Natalie then reveals that treemail also came with a map to a marked beach. “There’s treemail this morning at **Galu** and we don’t know if it’s gonna be a *merge*,” **Laura** says in her confessional. “Um, we have a pretty strong feeling that *something’s* happening today because we were given a map, so...we’re assuming the other tribe got one too...”

Believing it to be a merge, the **Foa Foa** members gather their supplies to take with them. As they pack up their things, Russell H. holds a last-minute strategy session. “So, uh, we’re votin’ *Laura*, and we’re gonna flip Betsy and *Natalie*,” he instructs. The **Foa Foa** members, including Liz, agree to stay loyal to each other until the

Final Five. “No matter what, we trust each other,” Russell S. says. “Everybody has each other’s backs,” Brett promises. But, in reality, he and John have other plans for after the merge: “John and myself have, you know, a very *pivotal* role in this game because on one hand, we’re aligned with the **Foa Foa** tribe, but at the same time, we have some very strong allies **Galu**,” **Brett** tells the camera, “so...our two votes could definitely change the whole game, uh, one way or the other,” he explains. “While I’m definitely excited for what could possibly be the *merge*, uh, there’s a little bit of hesitation because the first vote we have with both tribes is undoubtedly gonna expose where my true loyalties lie,” Brett then continues in his confessional.

Back at **Galu**, Monica and Kelly worry about the fates of their male allies. “I hope John’s still here,” Monica says. “I hope it was Russell [H. voted out],” Kelly then adds. “I just can’t wait to be able to sleep next to *John* tonight and keep each other *warm*,” Monica fantasizes. “And for once I won’t have to go back to my own tribe,” she comments. “More than the merge itself, I’m definitely looking forward to spending more time with *John*,” **Monica** then elaborates. “He’s *amazing*; we obviously like each other a lot, but...the only frustrating thing is that we can’t really show that in front of all these people because we could be considered a double threat,” she continues. “We have to play it off like, you know, we don’t have these romantic *feelings* for each other, and that’s kindof frustrating, but...you always have to keep things in perspective in this game and being in a ‘romantic relationship’ could ultimately work *against* me,” she realizes. With this, the **Galu** members head out to the location marked on their map.

The Tribes Merge

As the tribes reconvene for what they hope is a merge, they encounter a treasure chest on the beach: “We’re starting to come around the corner on this new beach and then we see the other tribe and we know they’ve left *their* beach as well,” **John** narrates. “There’s no Jeff. Uh, all we see on the beach is this treasure chest. You know, this could be good; this could be *promising*. I’m definitely feeling a merge today.” After opening the chest, **Foa Foa**’s chief, Russell H., reads the note: “*Congratulations **Foa Foa** and **Galu**. You are now one tribe*,” Russell H., as both tribes cheer. “Oh yeah; we’re merging,” Brett exclaims. “We’re *merging*, you guys!” Monica celebrates, as the castaways hug and greet each other. “*Take some time to get to know your new tribemates. A feast awaits you down the beach*,” Russell H. finishes reading amongst the rejoicing. “I was quite thrilled to finally be at the merge of the two tribes and to see Betsy and Natalie who I *did* have a trust with previously,” **Liz** happily reveals, as the castaways each grab their new blue buffs. “Good to see you,” Liz pleasantly greets the two women. Meanwhile, John immediately pulls Monica off to the side and tells her that they’ll talk as soon as possible. Liz then continues her confessional: “Once again I find myself in a position where I’m not really positive, you know, which alliance is my best option,” she explains, “so...if I were presented with a compelling enough argument, um, I could be a swing vote; *absolutely*.”

Moments later, the ten castaways arrive further down the beach where a traditional Samoan tribe and a decadent feast awaits them. “We get to the other part of the beach and not only is there a *feast* waiting for us, there’s also an actual Samoan chief with his whole tribe; you know, they’re roasting a *pig* right there in front of us,” **John** describes. “That looks really good,” Laura comments. Because, in Samoa, it is customary for chiefs to eat first, Natalie and Russell H. are called forward and given another note: “*Chiefs, as your final duty, you have some important decisions to make before the rest of your tribe can take part in the feast,*” Natalie reads aloud. “*You must come up with a new tribe name and decide on which of your former tribe beaches you wish to live. When you return to camp, use the paints and supplies to create your new tribe flag.*” To their tribemates’ disappointment, Natalie and Russell H. immediately begin to indulge themselves in the merge feast: “We’re all merged and...being one of the two *chiefs*, you know, me and Russell [H.] got to eat and everybody else had to sit around and watch,” **Natalie** tells the camera. <Various clips of the other castaways sitting nearby and waiting for their turn to eat are shown> “I can’t believe there’s all this food and we’re just *sitting* here, dude,” John says to Russell S. Natalie is then stunned when the Samoan chief presents her and Russell with the pig’s head: “Oh my goodness,” she utters. “You know, there I was mindin’ my own *business* and me and Russell [H.] are given the head of the *pig*,” Natalie continues in her confessional. “I was, like, *terrified*. You know, I did not want to be disrespectful of their culture at all, and honest to God, it was literally the best pig I’ve ever had in my *life*.”

As Russell H. and Natalie continue to eat, Russell brings up the chiefs’ duties: “Alright, so we gotta think about a *name* and which camp we’re gonna move to,” he says. “Well...I’m open for any ideas,” Natalie tells him. “You seem like you’ve *thought* about it.” “The name I picked was ‘*Matai*,’” Russell suggests. “Samoan for ‘chief.’” Natalie immediately agrees and the merged tribe is now known as **Matai**. The chiefs must now decide which beach they’d like to live on: “I know for a *fact* that the idol’s still at **Foa Foa** because the only person who had a clue was *Kelly*,” **Russell H.** calculates, “but...the last thing I want is for her to share the clue with Laura or Monica and one of them girls to end up with an idol, so...my goal in talkin’ to Natalie is to get her to merge at **Galú** because my strongest *ally*, Russell [S.], has a clue for that idol, so...what I’m gonna have to do is manipulate her little *mind*.” “You know what? I say we go to **Galú**,” Russell H. brings up. “I was actually gonna say **Foa Foa**,” Natalie counters. “Yeah, but...our shelter *leaks*; <Natalie says “Ours does *too*”> there’s no fish at our camp; we’ve got no *firewood*,” Russell H. deceives her. “It’s a crap camp. It really *is*.” “You don’t want the, uh, home field *advantage*?” he asks. “Well, we can go to **Galú**,” Natalie then offers. “Natalie’s *not* a strong leader the way *I* am,” **Russell H.** exclaims. “Everything I say she just *agrees* to!” “Listen, when we get back to camp, I wanna talk to you about the game,” Russell H. then begins. “*Okay*,” Natalie replies. “You tight with Betsy?” Russell H. asks her. “Mm hmm. Betsy’s *amazing*,” Natalie answers. Russell H. then nods his head: “I have some *ideas* of how you’re gonna be here for a long *time*,” he tells her. “A *long* time.” “I’m ready to play the game with **Foa Foa**,” Natalie reveals, “and Betsy is too.” Russell H. immediately grins: “It might be easier than I *thought* to get the votes,” Russell H. continues in his confessional. “I thought I was

gonna have to convince Natalie, but...her and Betsy were already ready to *flip*. It's *perfect*! This game's about to change and Laura has no *idea*."

"I wonder what they're *talkin'* about over there," a paranoid Laura whispers to Monica. Natalie and Russell then rejoin the rest of their tribe and reveal the tribe name and that they are returning to **Galū**. "Y'all can *eat* now," Natalie announces. With this, the frenzy begins. "Here's to making the Final Ten," Brett proposes a toast. "Final *Ten*," Betsy proudly repeats. The remaining Survivors then chow down on an assortment of Samoan foods and delicacies. "The feast was *magnificent*," **Laura** recalls, "but...it's a really uneasy feeling when you first walk into the merge because you don't know who the other tribe is lookin' to *target*," she continues. "It could be me; it could definitely be *me*. You know, Russell [H.] and Natalie just had a good 20-minute conversation that none of us were a *part* of. Could he have *flipped* her? You never *know*, so...I've got to have my game face on this *entire* time." "I can't stop eating," Laura says, as the feast dies down. "Even though I'm full, I still have hunger pains..."

The Power Meeting

The newly merged tribe arrives at the old **Galū** camp. "Congratulations everyone," Kelly says. After the old **Galū** tribe cordially welcomes the old **Foa Foa** tribe to their camp, Liz, Betsy, and Natalie begin to paint the '**Matai**' tribe's flag. Meanwhile, the **Foa Foa** members are disappointed to see a tiny shelter and a haphazard fire pit: "The **Galū** tribe, you know, it *sucks* compared to what we had at **Foa Foa**," **Russell H.** observes. "I mean, we had a bigger shelter; we had an *amazing* fire pit that the two, uh, Samoan guys put together for us. You know, *everything* was better at **Foa Foa**, but I had to lie to *Natalie* because I'm pretty confident that there's still an idol out here and Russell [S.] has the only *clue*." The two Russells head off into the jungle together, as Betsy, Liz, and Natalie continue to work on the flag and the conversation turns to Liz's mutiny: "The only reason I was upset was because you were a *part* of our alliance, and I was like 'How does she feel that she's *not*?' " Natalie poses. Liz says that she doesn't regret mutinying but she is sorry that Marisa and Mick went home. "Well, you know what? All we can do now is focus on getting to the *end*..." Natalie tells her.

Meanwhile, John and Monica take a moment to sneak a kiss. "I'm so happy you're here today," Monica excitedly exclaims. "Me too," John laughs. Laura, Kelly, and Brett then meet with them in a secluded jungle area. Brett points out that this is the first time that all five allies have been together. "Time for the *power* meeting," John then begins. He informs the girls that **Foa Foa**'s first target is Laura. "I *knew* they were comin' after me," Laura remarks. "But no matter what, we have five votes," he says. "The only thing that can potentially derail this plan would be the other *five* coming together and making it a tie," John explains. "Yeah," Brett agrees. "I don't know what the deal is with Natalie and Betsy," John continues. "Russell [H.] seems to think he can flip them. If they *do* flip, we might have to worry a little." "Well, who is *Liz* with?" Monica asks. "Liz is with *no* one," Brett answers. "Liz is with *us* <John points to himself and Brett>, but only to the extent that we can exploit her vote," John then corrects Brett. "Liz has a grudge against Russell [H.] because he voted Jaison, so...we can definitely *use* that." "And why

would she vote *me* when she could vote Russell [H.]?" Laura inquires. "Exactly," John replies. "Okay," Laura says, feeling more secure in her position. "I firmly believe that we have enough *ears* with enough different people that we'll *know* if any of our names come up," John then says. "Right now, my alliance of myself, John, Kelly, Laura, and Monica is definitely pretty confident that we can make a *run* with this game," **Brett** tells the camera. "You know, the five of us definitely *trust* each other and...there's never been an alliance on any previous season where, you know, five people have come together even before the merge, um, from two different *tribes*, so I think it'll be a pretty huge accomplishment if we can get to the Final Five." "As long as no one flips, we're *there*," John then says. The allies all put their hands together and cheer.

Jumping Ship

The next day, Russell H. immediately talks to Betsy and Natalie and attempts to bring them over to **Foa Foa**'s side. "How many handfuls of rice should we do?" Natalie asks Liz. "I'm gonna add a couple *more*," Liz replies, as she scoops more rice out into the pot. Russell H. and Betsy stands next to Liz and Natalie while they cook. "Would you vote, uh, *Laura* out?" Russell H. asks Betsy and Natalie. "Is that what everyone wants to do at this point?" Natalie then questions him. "My tribe is all votin' *Laura*," Russell H. answers. "You know, I didn't want to run right over to **Foa Foa** as soon as we merged, but I don't trust the other girls on the **Galu** tribe," **Natalie** expresses in her confessional. "I think they're in a very solid alliance, so... it makes sense for Betsy and myself to vote with the guys and *Liz* and take out *Laura*." Liz leaves the main camp area, as Betsy and Natalie privately consult one another. "We'll definitely have the numbers on our side," Natalie whispers to Betsy, "and we might even be able to align with Liz and go to the Final Three with her." Russell H. then interrupts their deliberations: "And as long as we can get rid of the three girls [Laura, Monica, and Kelly] *first*, me, you, Betsy, and Russell [S.] could get *rid* of John when that time comes," he then brings up. Betsy's eyes light up at the mere possibility. "That's *fine*," Natalie agrees. "Are you solid?" Russell H. asks Betsy. "You gotta be solid." "I'm *in* Russell," Betsy confirms. "We could be Top *Four*," Russell H. promises without Russell S.'s knowledge. "Having an alliance with two members of the **Foa Foa** tribe is a *huge* weight lifted off my shoulders," **Natalie** reveals. "Now I can just, you know, *relax* a little and...as long as everyone keeps to their word, I'll be in the Final *Four*." "It's a new beginning for *all* of us," Russell H. then says. "Absolutely," Natalie agrees. Russell H. is proud that he secured Betsy's and Natalie's votes: "Betsy and Natalie are with **Foa Foa**, 100%," **Russell H.** tells the camera, "so...even if John *did* try to go back on his word and turn the tables on me, it'll still be six to *four*," he concludes. "The only thing that pisses me off about it is that we got rid of *Ben*. If I would've known how *simple* it would be to get them to flip, I would have *kept* Ben and taken out John." Watching from the shelter, Monica and Kelly observe Betsy and Natalie's extended conversation with Russell H. "Why would they be talking with Russell [H.]?" Monica wonders. "I don't know," Kelly answers. "Like, I feel like they're switching or they wouldn't be talking that long," she deduces. In her confessional, **Kelly** then reflects on the new dynamic of the **Matai** tribe: "It's definitely interesting seeing the dynamic after the merge because it's kindof the first time that you get to see

everyone and, like, your full *competition*, you know? People are scrambling around trying to figure out, like, where they stand, what the pecking order is, who is trustworthy, who's loyal to who. <Several clips of various castaways talking to each other are shown> I mean, I'd have liked to have gotten Betsy or Natalie out before the merge because they clearly don't trust me, Laura, and Monica, but Monica didn't want to throw the [previous Immunity] challenge, so...I think because it *is* a new tribe, you know, Immunity's really *important* right now."

Immunity Challenge - Nut Cracker

On Day 24, the **Matai** tribe arrives on their blue mat ready to compete for individual Immunity. Host Jeff Probst explains the rules of the challenge, which is a Survivor version of tee-ball. One at a time, tribe members will place their ball on the tee and take a swing. The numbered section that the ball lands in will earn the player that many points. The highest score wins Immunity. Jeff then reveals that two people will win immunity. The men and women will compete in separate rounds, and the winner of each round will receive Immunity.

At the start of the challenge, Kelly is first on the board with one point. Laura hits out of bounds, and Liz takes the lead with four points. Betsy and Monica both score two points, but Liz remains in the lead. The last woman up is Natalie, who must hit the five or ten mark. Natalie is unsuccessful when she hits the ball out of bounds. With this, Liz wins individual immunity for the women. For the men, Brett is first up and hits the ball out of bounds. Russell H. is the first to score, with three points. Russell S. then hits the ball into the two, but it's not enough to beat Russell H. The last person up for the men is John, who must land in the four or higher to win Immunity. Emphasizing the significance of his one shot, **John** tells the camera, "Right now, Russell [H.]'s looking at Immunity. You know, I *have* to get at least a four so we can send him home. If I get this Immunity, I'll be a hero," he then declares. John succeeds by landing in the five, winning individual Immunity for the men. The rest of the **Matai** members clap, as Jeff hands both John and Liz an individual Immunity necklace. "I've been waiting for the individual challenges the whole time I've been here," **John** proudly says in his confessional. "Not only did Russell [H.] *not* win, but, uh, this [necklace] gives me the security that I'm one step closer to the million dollars and to the end goal, so...it's a good *day*."

"A Killer Tribal"

With **Matai**'s first Tribal Council on the horizon, the ten castaways return to camp. "Good job, John. Good job, Liz," Natalie congratulates the two Immunity winners. "I can't believe I *won* that," Liz exclaims in disbelief. "I've never played baseball in my *life*!" "I knew John was gonna win before I even saw what the challenge was," Russell H. comments in a slightly frustrated tone." As the castaways begin to disperse, the former **Foa Foa** members quickly meet in a group to confirm their vote: "*Laura*?" John asks everyone. "Yep, and we got Betsy and *Natalie*, so...it's done," Russell H. excitedly reports. John is not happy to hear this, but maintains his false allegiance to **Foa Foa**: "*Perfect*," he compliments Russell. Meanwhile, Laura and Kelly lounge together in the hammock and Kelly expresses that she has

concerns about Betsy and Natalie voting with **Foa Foa**. "Natalie's been talkin' a *lot* to Russell [H.]," **Laura** then tells the camera. "I'm *absolutely* worried that Natalie and Betsy are gonna turn on me and vote me to go home tonight, so...we need to make sure that they stick with **Galu**," she suggests. "You know, that's *all* we care about."

Moments later, John and Brett gather their allies in the jungle and reveal that Laura and Kelly's fears have become a reality: "Okay; we have a *minor* problem," John explains. "Betsy and Natalie are voting for *Laura* tonight." "I knew it," Kelly says to Laura. "So that means we're gonna *have* to deal with Liz," John brings up. "We just have to get Betsy and Natalie back," Monica says. "I can't offer them anything. They don't trust me," Laura tells her allies. "They would believe *Kel*." Perceived as the least deceptive of the three women, Kelly takes it upon herself to try to sway Betsy and Natalie back onto **Galu**'s side: "Who are you thinking for tonight?" Kelly asks them. "I'm still deciding between two *people*," Natalie tells her. "Well, the rest of us are voting for Little Russell," Kelly informs them. "I think that it's better for **Galu** to stick together. I mean, I know that you guys probably don't *trust* me, but I just wanna make everything good," Kelly explains. "Like, there's six girls now and four guys. What do you think of us three and *Monica* Final Four?" Kelly proposes. "I'd rather just get through this vote *first*," Natalie answers. "I'm just saying, like, we could vote off all the guys and then we just have Liz and *Laura* to get rid of," Kelly elaborates. "You're not gonna vote Laura before one of *us*," Betsy says. "The only reason I say Laura is because she's too strong to have in the Final Four, so...I think it makes more sense to keep you two and Monica," Kelly clarifies. "I definitely think Kelly is underestimated as a player in this game," **Natalie** acknowledges. "Like, she's *strategic*. You know, she plays a little bit like I do and I would definitely say that most people have looked at her as just, you know, riding Laura's *coattails* or Laura's sidekick, but that's not true at all." "So why can't we vote for Laura tonight?" Betsy then asks her. "At this point, it's safety in numbers, you know?" Kelly replies. "For sure; I agree," Natalie tells her. "The girls have more *numbers*," Kelly insists. "You know what? I would just want to think about it," Natalie says. "I don't want to give you my word if I'm gonna change my mind tomorrow." "Okay; I'll let you guys think," Kelly says, as she walks away from Betsy and Natalie. "I definitely think Betsy and Natalie are wanting to switch up the game and vote for *Laura*," **Kelly** tells the camera, "but hopefully I was able to convince them, you know, why they should vote for *Russell* [H.]." "I still don't know if we can *trust* her," Natalie says to Betsy. "I think when it comes down to it, I *can* be a strategic player when I have to be," Kelly continues in her confessional. "You know, I could be lying to your face and you'd never *know*."

Natalie and Betsy are now faced with a big decision: stick with **Galu** and vote out Russell H. or vote against Laura with the **Foa Foa** tribe. "How do *you* feel?" Betsy asks Natalie. "Every vote is so *tough*, Betsy," Natalie laments. "I just wanna do what's best for us." "Kelly said she wants to go to the Final Four with me and Natalie," **Betsy** recaps, "but...we also made an alliance with **Foa Foa** and I gave my word to Russell, but...no matter which side we take, we could be in a good *position*," she continues. "I don't know how I'm gonna vote at *all*." After talking to Betsy and Natalie, Kelly reports back to her alliance. "What did they *say*?" John

asks. "I don't know," Kelly responds. "They didn't want to commit to anything until after tonight's vote." "Let me go talk to Liz," John then says.

With the sun beginning to set, John checks in with Liz about the upcoming vote: "What I'm about to tell you, you can't go tell anyone else," he brings up. "Brett and I are gonna flip to **Galu** and take out *Russell* [H.]." Liz immediately raises her eyebrows in surprise at this revelation: "When John said that he and Brett were gonna vote for Russell [H.], I was definitely *surprised* because the plan for several days prior to the merge had been for the members of **Foa Foa** to stick together and eliminate **Galu**," **Liz** rationalizes. "I mean, at this point, the majority that we thought we had with Betsy and *Natalie* is really not a majority at *all* because Natalie and Betsy simply take the place of John and Brett," she elaborates. John then lays out Liz's options: "Listen, that gives you a lot of power <Liz says 'Absolutely'> because you're either gonna be the sixth vote for *Russell* or you're gonna vote Laura with **Foa Foa** and make it a tie," he tells her. "I want you to vote with me for *Russell*, okay?" "Voting Russell's *one* thing," Liz says, "but...I don't feel secure with the other girls." John continues his sales pitch: "If your name ever came up - I don't think it will - but if it did, I would be able to tell the other girls, for sure, 'No,'" John assures her. "I mean, you have nothing to worry about. I'm not gonna put you in harm's way." "I mean, I'd just like to know that I could get beyond Final *Six*," Liz tells him. "When it's time to start burning people, we'll burn Laura *first*," John promises. "Just not tonight. Russell [H.] *has* to go *first*." In her confessional, Liz then weighs her options for the impending Tribal Council: "The possibility of seeing Russell [H.] voted out is something I've very much wanted since he eliminated Jaison," **Liz** explains to the camera, "but the *consequence* of that is not only did I betray the girls' side when I mutinied but now I would have to betray the guys and also betray Natalie and Betsy *again*." "It's in our best *interest*, I think, to vote for Russell [H.]," John reiterates. Liz nods her head, as she considers the idea. She then continues her confessional: "The second possibility would be staying with **Foa Foa**, voting for Laura, and because I have one of the two, uh, *Immunity* necklaces, you know, I could create a tie at very little risk to *myself* and let the chips fall where they may."

With Betsy, Natalie, and Liz all undecided about their votes, it's anyone's guess who will go home between Russell H. and Laura. John, Brett, Laura, Monica, and Kelly hold one last meeting before leaving for Tribal Council. "Are we seriously trusting *Liz*?" Kelly inquires. "Liz will stay with us," John tries to ease his allies' fears. "I think we're underestimating Betsy and Natalie's relationship with her though," Brett worries. "I just *talked* to her, dude," John insists. "She's gonna go with whoever talked to her last." Kelly is still not convinced however: "I think this Tribal's gonna be a *disaster*," Kelly announces. Monica echoes Kelly's thoughts on the situation: "I would definitely say that Liz is one of the *least* trustworthy people left in the game," **Monica** expresses. "I have *no* faith in her voting with our alliance. I don't know *why* John trusts her. I don't even know how she made it to the merge," she continues. "I mean, I'll be surprised if she *doesn't* vote Laura's name down." The atmosphere around camp is tense as the ten **Matai** members grab their torches. "Tonight, Betsy and Natalie are comin' with **Foa Foa** to vote Laura," **Russell H.** recaps. It's gonna be 7-3, and once we take Laura out, we're

just gonna weed 'em out one at a *time*." "This is gonna be a killer Tribal," John says to Russell H. "I *know* it," Russell H. replies. "You know, I feel confident that Laura's gonna go," Russell H. continues in his confessional, "but...it almost seems too easy, like, something has to go *wrong*."

Tribal Council #10 - Matai Tribe

At Tribal Council, the first two jurors, Shambo and Ben, are brought in to observe the proceedings. "Alright; let's start with the last Tribal Council," Jeff begins. "Natalie, what was the reaction of the **Galú** tribe when you saw that it was Ben who went home?" "Um, we were very *surprised*," **Natalie** answers him. "Ben was not really on *anyone's* radar as somebody who they might vote off, so...it definitely opened our eyes to the fact that anyone really can go at any time. Like, even though you think you know who the majority's voting for, you have to be prepared for it to be *you*." Russell S. has a sad and guilty look on his face, as Natalie speaks about Ben. Jeff then changes subjects to talk about the merge: "John, take me through the merge," he brings up. "Sure," **John** replies. "You know, you're there to eat, drink, and be merry with these people that you're just meeting and hanging out with for the first time since, you know, the third day of the game," he continues, "but...in the back of your mind you've gotta be thinking, you know, 'who can I get rid of?' And if you're not, you're an *idiot*." John's statement resonates in the minds of his tribemates before Jeff moves on: "Laura, how does this merge change the *trust* in this game?" he asks. "It means there's gonna be chaos in this tribe," **Laura** tells him. "But...some of us have relationships from being in the same tribe and it only makes *sense* that those relationships are gonna stick." "So old tribal lines are staying strong?" Jeff follows up. "Yes," **Laura** nods. "Even though we're merging the two tribes, *my* team is still **Galú**," she says, in an attempt to sway Betsy and Natalie back with the women. "Russ [S.], tribal lines still comin' into play for you?" Jeff then asks him. "You know, Jeff, what's good for the tribe is good for *me* right now," **Russell S.** says as he nods, "and...I do trust these other guys from **Foa Foa**, and Liz, so, I mean, we have a game plan for tonight and I'm stickin' to it." "So if that's the case, both tribes are coming into the merge with five and we got a really interesting *scenario*," Jeff observes. "Monica, think there's cracks in the **Foa Foa** tribe?" Jeff poses. "I *definitely* think there's cracks in both **Foa Foa** and **Galú**," **Monica** admits. "In fact, I know there's cracks and no matter what people are saying tonight, I honestly *don't* think it'll be a vote completely along tribal lines; I think some people are gonna flip, but...if the vote's *not* a tie I'll still be a little surprised," she cryptically says. Although accurate, Monica's answer confuses several of her tribe members. Even Jeff displays a puzzled expression on his face. "Brett, who do you think should be most worried tonight?" Jeff then poses. "I think probably Russell [H.] and *Laura* should be most worried," **Brett** answers, "but...if the vote is, you know, five and five, anyone could go home if it comes down to a tie-breaker."

"Laura, surprised to hear your name come up that you might be a target?" Jeff asks her. "Not at all," **Laura** says, as she dramatically shakes her head. "I know I'm a *huge* target tonight, but it's rewarding to know that there are people in the tribe who *do* want me to stick around and...if it's me tonight, I go home knowing

Survivor: Samoa Fanfic

that I've played every *possible* card I can to *stay*." "How 'bout you, Russell [H.]? Are you concerned tonight you might be going home?" Jeff questions him. "For a *while*, I was vulnerable," **Russell H.** confidently says, "but...not *anymore*. You know, *my* time to go home's when everybody's already been voted off." Monica and John exchange amused glances after this comment. "Laura, Russell [H.] seems to think that he'll be *safe* tonight," Jeff points out. "I don't know, you know, *where* he's getting that from unless he's misreading the situation," Laura bluntly counters. "I think he'll be surprised." Russell H. then smirks: "I think it's *you* who'll be surprised," he comments, believing that all of **Foa Foa** and Betsy and Natalie will be voting for Laura. "*Okay*," Laura shrugs, also confident that she will have enough votes to stay. "Liz, let's talk about *your* time out here," Jeff then says, as he turns his attention to Liz. "You're the only person who's been a member, at *one* point, of both tribes. How does that factor in to your vote tonight?" he asks. "Honestly, I don't feel a strong allegiance to any particular tribe," **Liz** reveals, "but I definitely have some loyalty to several people on both tribes," she says, referring to Betsy, Natalie, John, and Brett. "Unfortunately, those individuals are not all *aligned*, so...regardless of how I vote tonight, I'm gonna have to cross *somebody*." "Last question, Brett: Could tonight's vote dictate the rest of the game?" Jeff inquires. "Oh yeah. I think the vote tonight will shape the rest of the game completely," **Brett** answers, "so...uh, tonight's definitely gonna be *pivotal*." With this, both John and Liz decide to keep Immunity and the ten **Matai** members cast their votes:

Laura writes Russell H.'s name down on her parchment: "We're eliminating **Foa Foa**, starting with the Chief," Laura tells the camera. The next castaway to vote is Russell S., who casts his vote for Laura: "Laura...tonight it's all about *numbers* and you're definitely the biggest threat on the other *side*," he explains. Monica then casts her vote for Russell H.: "One Russell down; one more to go," she says to the camera. Russell H. wastes no time in casting his vote for Laura: "Laura, you might be the Queen of **Galu**, but I'm the King of **Foa Foa**," he states. "There ain't room for *both* of us." John casts the final vote of the night and quickly writes Russell H.'s name down on his parchment: "*Sorry* Russell. You just got outplayed by *John*," he gloats.

Jeff then tallies the votes, and reveals them one at a time to the castaways:

LAURA.

LAURA.

RUSSELL H.

RUSSELL H.

LAURA.

RUSSELL H.

LAURA.

Laura raises her eyebrows at this vote, while Russell H. confidently smirks. "Four votes Laura; three votes Russell [H.]," Jeff recaps.

RUSSELL H.

The smirk on Russell's face now fades. Betsy and Natalie exchange a worried glance. "We're tied: four votes Russell [H.]; four votes *Laura*," Jeff recaps.

RUSSELL H.

John's face displays a slight grin, while Russell S. has the look of a deer caught in headlights. Russell H. now looks angry. "That's five votes Russell [H.]; four votes Laura; one vote left," Jeff reminds the **Matai** members. Liz's vote is the deciding factor...

RUSSELL H.

With six out of the ten votes cast against him, Russell Hantz, the 36 year-old oil company owner from Dayton, Texas, becomes the tenth person voted out of **Survivor: Samoa** and the third member of the jury. Russell is infuriated that he was lied to and stabbed in the back by John: "I saved your ass last week, John," he publicly calls John out on the betrayal. "You made a [censored] deal with me and then you back *out* on it..." he bitterly accuses. "And you *weren't* gunning for me on **Foa Foa**?" John then counters in a calm voice. After the vote, Russell S., Betsy, and Natalie are once again on the outside looking in.

Russell H.'s Final Words

Bitter and angry at being outplayed and blindsided, Russell H. leaves behind his final words: "They *got* me tonight," he begins. "They surprised me *real* good. I feel bad for Russell cause he's gonna go next. It sucks, man. He's in *trouble*. I don't know for sure who voted for me, but all John and Brett and Liz, all they had to do was vote Laura and **Foa Foa** would have been in control. They flipped; you know, they gave the numbers to **Galu** and...I ain't gonna vote for one of 'em on the jury." "You know what? If you're gonna win, win big and if you're gonna lose, go down in flames and...I *did*," he finishes.

Episode 10 - Undisclosed Title

Furious over losing his closest ally, Russell S. embarks on a crusade against John and tries to create a counter-alliance. Will he be able to save himself?

Liz loses the trust of her former allies and finds herself walking on thin ice with the women of **Galu**.

And a Tribal Council becomes heated when one castaway's dirty laundry is aired.

Episode 9 Voting History:

6 Votes Against	Survivors Voting Against Russell H.					
						
4 Votes Against	Survivors Voting Against Laura					
						